



Caledon Natural Area has two major goals. The first is the protection of the American bald eagle through proper management of an important eagle habitat area. The second is educating our guests by providing controlled access, exhibits and programming that explore the natural backgrounds of the eagle and other inhabitants of the area. Caledon contains 2,579 acres of undeveloped land and 3 1/2 miles of shoreline. Bald eagles need large, undisturbed tracts of land, such as Caledon, to flourish.

Caledon Natural Area is managed so both our human and eagle guests will enjoy their stay. To help toward that end, Caledon has been zoned to protect the eagles while providing an enjoyable and educational opportunity for our human guests.

Bordering Rt. 218 and continuing north toward the Potomac River for about 3/4 mile, the Educational-Recreational Area includes the visitor center, picnic areas and hiking trails. At the manor house, the back room is filled with exhibits about eagles and other

native plants and animals. Caledon residents, such as a black snake and a box turtle, are displayed in tanks for a few weeks and then released. Large maps of the park and the Chesapeake Bay cover the walls.

This area also serves as the focal point for Caledon's many field trips. Caledon hosts trips for all elementary and middle schools that wish to participate in an outdoors education program. Rangers help teachers form their lessons and lend backup support during field trips. Topics include ecology, conservation, aquatic life, wildlife and plant life.

The next zone is the Eagle Wildlife Area. Human visitation is restricted in this area. Interpretive programs with limited numbers of participants and scientific research (by permit only) are examples of the types of visitation allowed.

The Eagle Impact Zone is located along the shoreline of the Potomac River and in the marsh and wetland areas. It is here the eagles are most highly concentrated during the summer roosting and winter nesting periods. No visitation is allowed except for limited staffed interpretive programs and scientific research (by permit only). These activities are conducted with the least disturbance of the eagles in mind.

The final zone is a no boating zone that extends 1,000 feet into the Potomac River. Boats are prohibited in this zone from April through October, when foraging and roosting by immature and adult bald eagles are at their peak. Only commercial fishing and crabbing boats are allowed in this zone.

Frequent Visitors Save Money

Annual passes for parking offer the frequent visitor greater savings. Stop by the park office for details.

Virginia State Parks Reservation Center

To receive more information on Virginia State Parks or to make a cabin or campsite reservation, call **1-800-933-PARK** (or in the Richmond calling area 225-3867).

Join Us in the Parks – DCR's Volunteer Program

DCR offers diverse opportunities for volunteers in most state parks and natural areas throughout the state. Inquire at the park office for details.

For more information, contact:
Caledon Natural Area
11617 Caledon Road
King George, VA 22485
(540) 663-3861

or



Department of Conservation & Recreation
CONSERVING VIRGINIA'S NATURAL AND RECREATIONAL RESOURCES

203 Governor St., Suite 302
Richmond, Virginia 23219
(804) 786-1712

VIRGINIA
STATE PARKS

Caledon Natural Area Guide

King George, Virginia

Virginia State Parks provide "A Natural Legacy" of outdoor activities and programs. They are an important part of DCR's efforts to promote a strong conservation ethic. These efforts ensure that the best of Virginia's natural resources will be protected and available for future generations.

Welcome to Caledon Natural Area. A designated National Natural Landmark, Caledon provides visitors the unique opportunity of viewing bald eagles in their natural habitat. The area offers limited tours of eagle habitats from mid June to Labor Day. Caledon and the surrounding areas are the summer home for one of the largest concentrations of bald eagles on the East Coast. Preservation of the national bird's habitat is the primary focus of the natural area.







We invite you to explore and enjoy the beauty of Caledon. There are five hiking trails open year round that take visitors through environmentally sensitive marshlands and picturesque wooded areas. Picnic areas, available on a first-come, first-served basis, are equipped with tables, grills and restrooms.






The Boyd's Hole hiking trail is open from October 1 to March 31. This trail takes hikers through sensitive eagle habitat to the shore of the Potomac River. **The Boyd's Hole Trail is closed during summer months** to protect the large concentration of eagles roosting and foraging along Caledon's shoreline.





Caledon was donated to the commonwealth in 1974 by Ann Hopewell Smoot in memory of her late husband. At that time it was the largest land gift ever given to the state. Visitors will learn more about Caledon by touring the visitor center located in the Smoot House, featuring exhibits on the bald eagle and the park's history.

Color Coding and Mileage for the Trails at Caledon Natural Area		
Miles	Trail	Color
0.9	Fern Hollow	Red
0.8	Poplar Grove	Blue
0.7	Laurel Glen	Yellow
1.1	Benchmark	Orange
1.1	Cedar Ridge	White

To make your visit safer and more pleasant, we ask that you observe the following regulations:

-  The public use or display of alcoholic beverages is prohibited.
-  Help preserve nature, don't litter. Use trash receptacles and aluminum collection bins for recyclable cans.
-  Please observe all signs. Areas indicated as bald eagle protection zones are closed to the public.
-  Hiking trails are limited to pedestrians only. Bikes and motorized vehicles are restricted to entrance roads. Course trails are marked with blazes. A blaze is a 2 x 6 inch mark painted on trees approximately 5 1/2 feet from the ground. Each trail is assigned a color.
-  Pets are permitted in all state parks, but they must be kept in an enclosed area or on a leash, not to exceed six feet at all times. Pets must remain on a leash while on hiking trails.
-  Help preserve your park. Please don't cut or mar any plants or trees. Collecting animal or plant life is only for scientific purposes by permit from Richmond headquarters.

-  Eagle Wildlife Area
Authorized access only
-  Eagle Impact Zone
Authorized access only
-  Educational Recreational Area
-  Trails
-  Fireroad
No unauthorized access

-  Amphitheater
-  Parking
-  Picnic Area
-  Restrooms

